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Governor

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State Health Commissioner

# Indiana State Department of Health

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January 30, 2009

## **SUBJECT: School Immunization Requirements**

Dear School Superintendents, Principals, and Nurses,

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) met with representatives from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana Association of School Nurses (IASN) to review current immunization recommendations published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and to discuss potential revisions to our school immunization requirements. The outcome of that discussion is summarized below.

### **Immunization Requirements:**

1. The Indiana State Department of Health does not plan to change school immunization requirements for the **2009-2010** school year. Please be aware that if changes to school requirements are enacted during the current legislative session, we may not know about them until later in the spring. For a current list of requirements, please go to [https://chirp.in.gov/chirp\\_files/chirp\\_docs.htm](https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/chirp_docs.htm). To view current legislative activity, please go to <http://www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo>.
2. We anticipate that the following changes will be required for the **2010-2011** school year:
  - a. One meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) will be required for all students entering 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - b. One Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) booster will be required after 10 years of age for all students entering 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.
3. We urge school district administrative and nursing staff to send information about pertussis and the Tdap vaccine home with students who will be eligible for the vaccine next fall. This information will be available on both the DOE and Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) websites by March, 2009.
4. We urge school district administrative and nursing staff to be proactive in collecting and recording the necessary documentation for students to ensure compliance once these changes go into effect.
5. We remind school district administrative and nursing staff that IC 20-30-5-18 requires schools to send information to ALL students, parents or guardians about meningitis and the meningococcal vaccine. Updated information is currently available on both the DOE and CHIRP websites.

## Immunization Reporting Requirements:

1. School immunization reporting requirements will not change for the **2009-2010** school year, unless this is mandated legislatively.
2. We anticipate that the following changes *will be required* for the **2010-2011** school year:
  - a. All schools reporting to ISDH under IC 20-34-4-6 will be required to use CHIRP to record immunization data for all students in K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Please keep in mind that Indiana Code requires that each school shall keep immunization records for every student who enrolls. According to IC 20-34-4-1a., “The records must be kept uniformly throughout Indiana according to procedures prescribed by the state department of health.”
  - b. Schools that do not have the capacity to record immunization data electronically will be exempt on a case-by-case basis. Paper reporting will be accepted from exempt schools.
3. A special thank you to school nurses who have completed immunization data entry into CHIRP for all their students. Please continue to enter your kindergarten and new students as they enroll.
4. For those schools that have begun this process, please continue entering student immunization data into CHIRP, focusing on grades K and 5 this spring (next year’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders), and adding new kindergarten students after the start of school in the fall.
5. For those who have not yet begun entering immunization data into CHIRP, please call the CHIRP help desk at (888)227-4439, and we will be happy to get you signed on and started.

ISDH looks forward to continued partnership with IDOE, IASN, and all school nurses and administrators as we work to provide healthy, safe learning environments for children and teachers in Indiana schools.

Sincerely,

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Indiana Department of Education